Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Are not the Government aware that the health and well-being not only of the Civilian population but of the European military population are affected by the existence of these swamp areas in Mattancheri and in Ernakulam, more in Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Government are absolutely satisfied that it is necessary to improve the swamp areas and reclaim them and with that view Government made an offer to lend money to the owners of those lands if they are prepared to take it on a loan basis to improve those swamp areas.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What was the reply?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: No reply from the Municipality.

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Honb'le Member should ask for definite information.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: My question is this; Are the Government aware that the health and well-being of the military population as well as the Civilian population are greatly threatened by the existence of these swamp areas?

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member is entering into an argument. Supplementary questions may not take the form of an argument.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: I am not arguing.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether soon after the war Government will be in a position to start the work immediately?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the cost estimated?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The Mattancheri scheme would cost about 4½ lakhs and the Ernakulam scheme about 3½ lakhs of rupees.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the contribution that the Government ask the Municipality to bear?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: There is no question of contribution. Government only suggested that if the owners are prepared to take a loan, they would lend the money.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: How much? Government was not prepared to contribute anything.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The details did not come from the Municipality, and the Government had no occasion to consider them.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)*: Did not the Municipality put in a proposition to reclaim them by floating debentures?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes. But Government said that loans will be given to the owners of the properties to reclaim them.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: The Government Secretary said that the Government were willing to give loans for improving these areas. Were the public informed of it?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: At Ernakulam, the Municipality itself requested the Government to drop the matter for the duration of the war. With regard to Mattancheri, Government made the offer to the Municipality.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What was the reason that stood in the way of Government giving the loan to the Municipality?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The Municipality suggested that they will raise a loan and reclaim the lands and sell them. Instead of venturing upon that Government suggested that if the owners themselves ask for a loan, Government have no objection to accept that scheme.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder *(Nominated)*: May I know who prepared the scheme?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The Mattancheri Municipality.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder *(Nominated)*: Was an expert called?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: No. A full survey was made and the scheme was prepared.

MULLUKAYAL—TENANTS IN ACTUAL CULTIVATION AND THE YIELD THEREFROM

4. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the actual number of tenants holding lands in actual cultivation in this area comprised in the storage of water for kole cultivation, Mullukayal;

(*b*) the approximate yield that can be expected per para of seed sowing lands mentioning the maximum and minimum?

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Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*:

(*a*) 268 (including cultivating owners and varam tenants).

(*b*) 1½ to 8 paras per para of seed sowing land.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know the actual output last year? This area was covered with water last year.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It was about 13,000 and odd paras.

BANANAS AND YAM—CONTROL OF

5. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Director of Agriculture had not recommended to Government to control bananas and yam;

(*b*) if so, when;

(*c*) whether Government were not requested by individuals in the State to issue control orders in the above;

(*d*) when Government were pleased to issue orders;

(*e*) whether they are aware of cart loads of consignments of these products to Vaniamkulam and other parts of the British Malabar on their way being returned;

(*f*) if an answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to realise the heavy cost, trouble and inconveniences the subjects are and were put to by the belated orders;

(*g*) will Government be pleased to take note and take appropriate action of an exemplary nature in this matter?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 21st July 1943.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The order came into force on 5th September 1943.

(*e*) No such incidents were brought to notice.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*e*).

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the Director of Food Supplies consulted the producers of bananas before promulgating these orders?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Some enquiries were made both among producers and merchants. Of course producers objected and in spite of the objection it was thought that some ban was necessary.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: In regard to Mattancheri and Ernakulam areas the people are very much affected by the control because Travancore bananas cannot come here.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: In fact the Mattancheri and Ernakulam areas have been benefited by this order because we imported a large quantity of banana from northern taluks.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Did the Director of Food Supplies consult the Food Advisory Council before passing the orders?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Then what is the use of this Advisory Council?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There was then no Food Advisory Council.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: By bananas it means a special variety of plantain. Is there no obstruction to transport other plantains?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Do the Government know that other plantains are also obstructed by the officers?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No. Government will enquire into it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Is there any objection while issuing these notices to specify in future that banana plantains alone are not to be transported?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: That has been made clear. The order refers only to banana plantain.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Is there any objection to make it very clear so that the illiterate Excise peons may not misunderstand it?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: There is no objection, we will make it clear.

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